

NSC BRIEFING

21 January 1954

FLARE-UP IN MOROCCO

I. Spanish activity:

A. Current flare-up in Morocco results from Madrid's desire:

1. To irritate France at time when situation lends itself to such action, and springs out Spanish desire to occupy in Morocco position equal to France.
2. To curry good will in Arab World by promoting anti-French sentiment by supporting removed Sultan and by vaguely promising more autonomy to Spanish Morocco.

B. Current assemblage of local Moroccan notables aimed at above objectives not a unilateral Spanish abrogation of 1912 treaty with France which still governs relations in Morocco of two countries.

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II. French Position:

- A. France long irritated over Spanish "uncooperative attitude," using this situation in attempt to solicit American support for its policies in this area.
- B. France exaggerating and sending military forces into nearby Algeria aimed at impressing Spanish.

III. Probable Results:

- A. No formal autonomy for Spanish Morocco expected to develop. Status quo anticipated.
- B. No significant change in present situation in Morocco where adequate French military forces maintain uneasy formal public order. 54,000 French troops present.

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- C. Spanish Morocco will not become staging area for terrorist attacks on French territory. 60,000 Spanish troops will maintain order in their zone.
- D. Spain will gain little prestige with Arabs. Already indifferent, Spanish-French relations will be strained further.

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